



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, ED.D., *State Superintendent*

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January 22, 2007

TO: School Board Chairs  
Superintendents  
Directors of Student Services  
Principals  
School Counselors

FROM: June St. Clair Atkinson

## Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

Since 1984, the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Health and Human Services have joined in an agreement designed to facilitate guidelines regarding the reporting of child abuse or neglect. The agreement was revised in 1986, 1991 and 1998. A newly revised document has been signed and became effective January 22, 2007.

All children should be afforded the opportunity to obtain an education and to live free from child abuse and neglect. The recommended guidelines found in the agreement should be incorporated into formalized agreements between local school boards and county departments of social services and may be adapted to meet local needs. In addition, reporting procedures should be included in the school crisis management plan.

Changes in the revised agreement include the following:

- Emphasis on G.S. 7B-301, which mandates that any person that has reason to suspect abuse, neglect or dependency is to report that suspicion to the county DSS.
- Clarification of the responsibilities of a school and/or district liaison.
- The implementation of a Multiple Response System (MRS) and family-centered practice.
- Minor revisions of language to enhance clarity.

A copy of the MOU is enclosed and can be retrieved electronically at [www.dhhs.state.nc.us/](http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/) and [www.ncpublicschools.org/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/). You are encouraged to share this material with your local school board, staff and local educational personnel. Training opportunities, support materials and resources can be found at Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina: [www.preventchildabusenc.org](http://www.preventchildabusenc.org).

If you have further questions, please contact Terri Reichert, NC Division of Social Services, at (919) 733-4622 [terri.reichert@ncmail.net](mailto:terri.reichert@ncmail.net) or Amy Smith, Department of Public Instruction, at (919) 807-3852 [asmith@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:asmith@dpi.state.nc.us).

JSA/ags

Attachment

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